REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed January 8, 2007. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein.

Claims 1-27 remain in the present application.

Claims 4 and 5 stand allowed.

Claims 18 and 19 were allowable but objected to based on the use of the term "machine" in the preambles. Applicant has amended claims 18 and 19 as suggested by the Examiner to place claims 18 and 19 in condition for allowance.

REPLY TO RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

A key to understanding a patentable distinction between the claimed invention and the cited references is to understand that the terms "brightness setting" and "brightness level" are used interchangeably in the Specification as less cumbersome ways to refer to a level of a brightness setting for a display. For instance, both terms are used on page 6, lines 1-11. This paragraph describes how a user or operating system may change the level of the brightness setting for a display. The paragraph goes on to describe how an embodiment of the invention can compare the level of brightness setting for the display to a threshold level of brightness setting in order to determine a brightness indicator, and how the brightness indicator can be used to select a mode of operation for the display's backlight.

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The level of the brightness setting for a display may be related to the power level of the display's backlight, but Applicant respectfully submits that using the level of the brightness setting for the display to select a mode of operation for the display's backlight is clearly different from using a feedback signal that is indicative of the power level of the backlight. In fact, as stated on page 4, lines 22-31, one of the primary goals of the claimed invention is to determine a mode of operation for a display's backlight without using a feedback signal indicative of the backlight's power level.

As Applicant previously argued, both Lin et al. and Esteves et al. use a voltage or current feedback signal that is indicative of load conditions. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references, alone or combined, suggest, disclose, or enable determining a mode of operation for a display's backlight based on a level of brightness setting for the display.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

In the January 8, 2007 Final Office Action, claims 15-21 were objected for using the word "machine" in the preambles. Applicant has amended the preambles as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments overcome the objection.

35 USC 112 REJECTIONS

In the January 8, 2007 Final Office Action, claims 1-3, 6-17, and 20-27 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

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The Office Action asserted that the "specification only describes changing modes based on brightness levels NOT brightness settings." Applicant respectfully disagrees. As discussed above, the terms "brightness level" and "brightness setting" are used interchangeably in the Specification to refer to the level of the brightness setting for a display.

For instance, at page 4, lines 29-31, the Specification states that "embodiments of the present invention can select a mode of operation for a backlight ... based ... on the brightness setting of the display." And, at page 8, lines 25-28, the Specification states that "embodiments of the present invention switch a backlight ... between modes ... based on a brightness level...." Furthermore, at page 6, lines 1-11, the Specification describes how the level of the brightness setting for a display can be used to select a mode of operation for a backlight.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Specification does enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 1-3, 6-17, and 20-27 be withdrawn.

35 USC 103 REJECTIONS

In the January 8, 2007 Final Office Action, claims 1-2, 6-11, 13-14, 22-24, and 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,936,975 issued to Lin et al. (hereinafter "Lin") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,724,174 issued to Esteves et al. (hereinafter "Esteves"). Applicant

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respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over the cited references. For
example, claim 1 states:

> A method comprising:
>   receiving an indicator of a brightness setting for a display,
> said display having a backlight driven by a voltage inverter; and
>   selecting either a continuous mode of operation for the
> voltage inverter or a burst mode of operation for the voltage inverter
> based at least in part on the indicator.

In claim 1, a backlight for a display is driven by a voltage inverter. The voltage
inverter can be operated in two different modes. The method selects between
the two modes based on an indication of the brightness setting for the display.

In contrast, Lin describes generating a feedback signal that is indicative of
the voltage and/or current conditions at a backlight, and using that feedback
signal to adjust the voltage and/or current supplied to the backlight (Lin: col. 4,
lines 57-64). Applicant respectfully submits that Lin has nothing whatsoever to
do with using the brightness setting for a display in any capacity, much less to
select a mode of operation for driving the display's backlight. Therefore,
Applicant respectfully submits that Lin does not suggest, disclose, or enable
"selecting either ... mode of operation for the voltage inverter" for a display's
backlight based on an "indicator of a brightness setting for" the display, as
claimed in claim 1.

Esteves was cited for teaching selecting between a continuous mode and
a burst mode of operation (January 8, 2007 Final Office Action, Page 6).
Assuming for the sake of argument that the Final Office Action is correct with
respect to the teachings of Esteves, Esteves is similar to Lin in that Esteves

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describes using a feedback signal from the output of a voltage regulator to select between the modes of operation (Esteves: col. 5, lines 4-29). Like Lin, Applicant respectfully submits that Esteves has nothing whatsoever to do with using the brightness setting for a display in any capacity, much less to select a mode of operation for driving the display's backlight. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Esteves does not cure the deficiencies of Lin as described above. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Lin in view of Esteves for at least the reasons discussed above.

Applicant respectfully submits that the reasoning presented above similarly applies to claims 2, 6-11, 13-14, 22-24, and 26-27. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 6-11, 13-14, 22-24, and 26-27 are likewise patentable over Lin in view of Esteves.

In the January 8, 2007 Final Office Action, claims 3, 15-17, and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Esteves, further in view of U.S. Patent Application 2002/0118182 by Weindorf (hereinafter "Weindorf"). Applicant respectfully submits that the reasoning presented above with respect to Lin and Esteves similarly applies to claims 3, 15-17, and 20-21. Furthermore, Weindorf is directed to adjusting display luminance as a function of ambient light (Weindorf: Para. 12). Applicant respectfully submits Weindorf has nothing whatsoever to do with selecting modes of operation for a backlight inverter, much less using a display's

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brightness setting to select among the modes. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Weindorf does not cure the deficiencies of Lin and Esteves as described above. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that 3, 15-17, and 20-21 are patentable over Lin in view of Esteves, further in view of Weindorf, for at least the reasons discussed above.

In the January 8, 2007 Final Office Action, claims 12 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Esteves, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,750,842 issued to Yu (hereinafter "Yu"). Applicant respectfully submits that the reasoning presented above with respect to Lin and Esteves similarly applies to claims 12 and 25. Yu was cited for teaching "a backlight control circuit for a full-bridge circuit" (January 8, 2007 Final Office Action, Page 12). Assuming for the sake of argument that the Office Action is correct with respect to the teachings of Yu, Applicant respectfully submits Yu has nothing whatsoever to do with selecting modes of operation for a backlight inverter, much less using a display's brightness setting to select among the modes. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Yu does not cure the deficiencies of Lin and Esteves as described above. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that 12 and 25 are patentable over Lin in view of Esteves, further in view of Yu, for at least the reasons discussed above.

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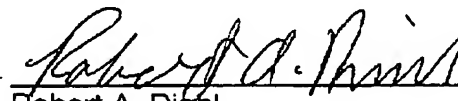Application No.: 10/750,140

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-27 are now in a condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of such claims.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to our Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

INTEL CORPORATION

Date: 3/8 , 2007

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